

1. Cyber Seminar on VA Medicare Data for Research Rescheduled

The VIREC cyber seminar “VA Medicare Datasets for Research” will be presented in September 2005, on a day to be announced (not August 10, 2005, as originally announced). Information about the VIREC seminar and all offerings in the HSR&D cyber seminars program is available at http://www.hsrds.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/.

2. VIREC Research User Guide Updated

The *VIREC Research User Guide: VHA Pharmacy Prescription Data* has been revised with additional information on cost fields in the Decision Support System Pharmacy National Clinical Extract (referred to as PHA) and an updated bibliography. The updated guide can be accessed through the VIREC Web site page <http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/References/RUG/RUG.htm>

3. July Issue of *Data Warehouse/Data Marts Newsletter*

The July *Data Warehouse/Data Marts Newsletter* has news on development of the Clinical Data Warehouse and the Financial and Clinical Data Mart, data standardization to support the Health Data Repository, and the VISN 20 Data Warehouse Program. The newsletter is on the VA Intranet at http://vaww.va.gov/vhaea/datawarehouse/newsletter/Vol7_CDWDMNewsletter.pdf.

4. VIREC Plans Primary Web Site on VHA Intranet

VIREC currently maintains almost identical Internet and Intranet Web sites (at www.virec.research.med.va.gov and vaww.virec.research.med.va.gov, respectively). The Center is planning to make its primary Web presence on the VHA Intranet and to maintain a limited presence on the Internet. The change will make it easier to comply with Office of Communications requirements for Internet Web sites, and it will be possible for VIREC to provide researchers with information and hyperlinks to VA information sources that cannot be put on an Internet site. VA-affiliated researchers will be able to utilize the Intranet site from any computer within the VA firewall or by using the VA Virtual Private Network (VPN). The VIREC Help Desk will continue to be accessible through both the Internet and Intranet Web sites. VIREC expects that the change will be completed by the end of the calendar year. Researchers with questions and comments about this development are encouraged to contact VIREC at 708-202-2413 or VIREC@va.gov.